

# Reform: Past, Present, and Future

**Instructions: Look at the changes achieved by the reformers of the past. Is there still room for improvement? What should be done to make things better?**

## The 1800's

## Today

## The Future?

Englishman Sydney Smith wrote, "In the four quarters of the globe, who reads an American book, or goes to an American play, or looks at an American picture or statue? He assumed the answer was obvious: no one.	American art, literature, plays, and movies are popular all over the world. Many countries worry about the "Hollywood's" influence on world culture.	American films and literature could be less violent, television could be more educational, and Americans could have greater appreciation for the arts of other countries.
Children were expected to go to of work as soon as they were able, certainly by the age of 7. In 1870, the first time the census reported child laborers, there were 750,000 workers 15 and under, not including family farms or businesses.	Every state in the United States requires children to attend school at least through the age of 16. Many laws prohibit children from entering the workforce before the age of 16.	
In 1860, there were 1,305,223 slaves in the United States.	The 13 <sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution abolished slavery in the United States	
Married women had no legal status and no legal custody over their children. Women did not have the right to vote. Women received a fraction of the education of men. Women were expected to work in the home.	Women have full legal status, including the right to vote. A large percentage of women work outside the home.	
Jails, prisons, and mental institutions were cruel places with terrible living conditions. No attempts were made to treat the mentally ill.	Many laws exist that require institutions to be safe, clean, and humane. The mentally ill are given treatment and numerous programs help prison inmates become educated, productive members of society.	